

Humanitarian aid



Bamenda. North West Region (Cameroon)



People served

1212 families

732 host families and 480 displaced families.

1212 students

(609 males y 691 females)



People working in the project

29

17 people in Futrú, 7 in MBelem and 5 in Menteh.



Presentation of the social reality:

The political crisis in the country is turning into a livelihood and employment crisis that will lead, if urgent action is not taken, to a food crisis and the violation of children's human rights.

Particularly vulnerable groups are:

- Displaced population with limited legal access to work, no right to access land for cultivation, limited right to move freely.
- Children who lack access to and availability of nutritious food.
- Women: their main income depends on agriculture, which is undermined by the insecure conditions in the area and by Covid-19's own measures.

- The host population, in already impoverished rural areas, suffers pressure on already limited food resources and basic health, education, water and sanitation services.

Let us not forget that, living in a conflict zone due to the Anglophone crisis brings with it a significant degree of insecurity. Separatist groups continue to put pressure on the population and the government through threats and attacks (in the last 2 years, schools have been systematically attacked and forced to close).



Simple description of the task to be carried out

This project aims to improve the resilience of the population to cope with crises and ensure food security for displaced families and the host population that are part of the educational community in the three Piarist schools in Bamenda.

The target population are the pre-school and elementary school children enrolled in the schools, the teaching and management staff, and the parents who are members of the Parents' Associations (AMPAS). They are all children living in mud, block or tin houses, with little access to sanitation, belonging to large families below the poverty line and with a basic or illiterate level of education. The selection is based on the school census of the previous school year, in which socio-economic and special vulnerability criteria, such as displaced people, were prioritised in the new enrolments. The involvement of parents in their children's education and their commitment to regular school attendance is also positively valued.



Achievements in the last years

- Measures taken to promote the integration of the most vulnerable groups.
- Regarding the displaced population, 40% of our schools in Bamenda are made up of displaced people. This project contributes to reducing the vulnerability of children and their families, as they have access to safe and nutritious food.
- For girls, the closure of schools not only means that girls take on more household chores, but also that a significant percentage of girls drop out of school before completing their education (especially displaced girls living in rural and isolated areas, and those living in poverty). Recognising that crises have a greater impact on women and girls, the food aid project prevents families (in the face of reduced income and given that girls support household and agricultural work) from deciding not to enrol their daughters.

Future intentions (lines of improvement)

- Strengthen the humanitarian response capacities of the local partner and educational community.
- Improve the nutritional and hygienic conditions and habits of the 1,212 families in: Saint Michel Futru Catholic School (757), Saint Augustin Mbelem Catholic School (194) and Saint Joseph Calasanz Menteh Catholic School (261).
- In addition to the above activities, we see the need to offer scholarships to students who are willing to face all threats to go to school, especially in this environment.



Volunteering in social inclusion projects



People served

2971 including children, youth and elderly
(1628 are female and 1343 are male)



People working in the project

209 volunteers

154 women and 55 men.



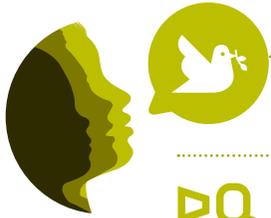
Presentation of the social reality:

The political and social situation in the country is complex, but in spite of this, Itaka-Escolapios Venezuela continues to look after the people who need the most attention. Whether they are children, young people or the elderly.

Young volunteers between the ages of 17 and 25 have to work at times when they are not studying. If they opt for university they must work and study, and if not, from the age of 18 they are full time employed in 10-hour working hours from Sunday to Sunday, some of them very few with a day of rest, so they lose the enjoyment of youth, taking on responsibilities at a very early age. Knowing their days are so short of time, they get a moment to support the projects on time.

Also volunteers from 26 to 55 years of age who are committed with more dedication, these ones are promoting the network of canteens from Monday to Friday, their work is to cook for the kids and support their education.

During these 3 years, several young volunteers have dropped out of the projects, but now there are more volunteers with representatives from the schools and from each child or young person assisted in the social projects, who are now more involved and responsible.



Simple description of the task to be carried out

In Venezuela we have a variety of projects where we have a large number of volunteers, among these we have:

- Calasancios canteen network: We help children and young people from 3 years of age to 16 years old, these beneficiaries receive in addition to food, school support, both essential to get them out of the state of malnutrition and in turn level academic deficiencies, which have been generated by the situation of family vulnerability. They also receive medical attention to measure, weigh and improve their nutritional health.
- Apoyo Escolar: attention to the children of each community of Valencia, Barquisimeto, Caracas, Carora, the environment where we are located, a way to interact with children who are not in our schools, giving the opportunity of a space where they get help in improving reading and writing and basic mathematics, bringing them closer to God, rescue of values and have an accompaniment to discover their gifts or talents that will be attended from the Calasang Cultural Centre. These children have little chance of advancing in formal education, from school support we seek to level their knowledge according to their age and their learning problems so they can have better opportunities in the educational field.
- Calasang Movement: To promote the stages from the smallest to the youngest, dedicating each weekend to evangelisation, joyfully accompanying the spiritual and personal part.



Achievements in the last years

Volunteers in Venezuela are immersed in many activities in addition to those already committed to these projects, they are current warriors fighting for the improvement of their country.

Despite the current political and economic situation in the country, many remain active, knowing that they are also vulnerable to the situation, as many of our young volunteers have dropped out looking for financial support, have abandoned their university studies, have emigrated, leaving their families, but there are many who with all their efforts have stayed, they are committed to transforming, giving their time to serve the children of their communities, they dare to dream, they are committed to change in their environment and in their country, leaving behind their needs.



Future intentions (lines of improvement)

During the 2021-2022 school year, more than 200 volunteers remained active, thanks to whom we are able to care for about 3,000 people (children, young people and the elderly). It is a blessing to be able to count on people who offer a helping hand without expecting anything in return, that is why they are volunteers from the heart.

That is why we continue to support volunteering, and for this we have strengthened training in social action, empowerment for social transformation. Without forgetting to work on the issues of spiritual and personal growth that help to provide quality care.



[Info : video](#)